

# Grand Jury Urges Changes in Methods at City Home

## WOMAN BREAKS DOWN AND DECLARES SHE IS INNOCENT OF MURDER

Now Practically Under Arrest, but Likelihood of Conviction Seems Remote—Physician Volunteers to Provide Lawyer for Defense.

(Continued From First Page.)

Council has its attention turned more closely to this important public institution, that better conditions will arise.

Covered All the Ground. Thus the jury ranged through all possible fields of inquiry, and left no one unsearched in its very general condemnation.

Council is called for Monday night to take up the matter of the Mayor's veto of the Blues' Armory ordinance. Under a suspension of the rules the City Home matter could also be taken up.

Judging from the report, it seems that the Committee on Relief of the Poor is held almost as much accountable as the superintendent. The latter, it seems, was a chief officer without a kingdom. He was hampered, it is alleged, by the committee, and there was never a complete understanding as to what were his duties. The report says that the grand jury finds the conditions reigning at the home lamentable. It says that the superintendent was not equal to the emergency, and that the attendants, in not adopting more precautionary methods, show incompetency and lack of experience.

Of all those who have come under the searchlight of investigation, Miss Margaret Venable, head nurse in the hospital, was the only one to escape with complete vindication. She was not only vindicated, but commended.

As to the committee, President R. L. Peters, of the Common Council, stated that it had received all the money and consideration it ever asked for, and this in a measure relieves the Council of the burden of blame.

Commended by Judge. The jury convened yesterday at 10 o'clock, and in less than an hour had adjourned for all time. The members repaired to the Hastings Court, where Judge Witt thanked and commended them in the highest terms for their faithful work. The report was read

and listened to with the most careful attention by those present.

In all the excitement Baby Vaughan was not forgotten. It was the death of "Muggins" that caused the investigation, and in summing up their report, the grand jury said: "We hope, therefore, that the life of the little infant was not lost out of sight, but for the betterment of the affairs of the home, which, in our opinion, are ready in need of reformation."

Cannot Convict Her. Mrs. Gaylord is now practically under arrest. As soon as the indictment was drawn Commonwealth's Attorney Folkes issued a capias for her, and Officer Pillow was detailed to guard her room. She received the news of her indictment in silence at first, and then her eyes were suffused with tears. "God knows," said the forlorn and lonely woman to Mr. Davis, "I didn't kill the little child, but I did everything I could to save his life."

She looked toward her own baby girl, and her eyes were filled with tears. For months she has received no communication from her parents or her friends. As a wayward girl she left her home, and since then—about four years ago—she has been wandering about the city, and has fallen thick and fast about her. She is absolutely penniless, but some prominent physician in the city has volunteered to aid her, and has already employed a lawyer to defend her. It is necessary, he will engage two more. There are many who believe in the innocence of the unfortunate woman; there are many more who believe otherwise. She must be brought to trial, but there is not the remotest probability that she will be convicted.

All the evidence that connects her with the case has been given, and it is only circumstantial and insufficient for conviction. Superintendent Davis has written to her father, A. J. Jackson, in Raleigh, N. C., and he may come to her aid.

used at sundry times with criminal intent, and that the negligence of those in charge of said child caused the repetition of the attempt at murder, which finally resulted fatally.

"The failure on the part of its attendants, by preserving the vomit emitted from its stomach, whereby the nature of the poison might have been detected, and to report to the honorable court as it is to show incompetency and lack of experience."

CARELESS METHODS. "The loose and careless placing of deadly poison within reach of the inmates of the home, whereby the vicious or half-witted, or perhaps criminally inclined, can easily and meanly use it for their nefarious purposes, beyond the comprehension of this jury, and deserves the severest censure."

"We do not condemn the attendants, which the hands of fate have placed in the care of the city, to jeopardize their lives and health by the attempt to perform their duties as beginners in their profession, nor to the care of nurses and attendants who are not properly trained, and who are morally, and especially in the case of this little child, where a recent inmate of the Spring Street Home was placed as one of the guards."

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## A Story in Three Chapters—Being a Newspaper's Reply to a Minister's Criticism From the Pulpit

I.

The murder of a nameless infant at the City Home on Monday last calls for instant and searching investigation. The Committee on Relief of the Poor, which has general charge of the home, will hold a special meeting to-morrow night to probe this shocking crime. It will certainly insist upon categorical answers to the following questions:

Why are corrosive sublimate and other deadly poisons kept at the City Home within easy reach of anybody who wants to kill?

Why was the first attempt to murder this infant, on July 19th last, kept secret? Is it, or is it not, the duty of the City Home officials to notify the police of crimes attempted on persons committed to their care?

Why was the second attempt to murder this infant suppressed until after the child's death? Was old George B. Davis, Superintendent of the City Home, and J. G. Trevilian, resident physician at the City Home, make no mention of the death of the murdered child at the Poor Committee meeting on Monday night, at which meeting both of them were present?

It is an unfortunate coincidence that the murder of the child occurred on the same day as the death of an abandoned child—said and shocking as that death is, the practice of impurity, rather than being excited over SENSATIONAL public officials, do about the same thing. It is a practice of insinuating evil or intimating unfaithfulness."

Superintendent George B. Davis, of the City Home, and Dr. J. G. Trevilian, a member of the visiting staff, are members of Dr. McDaniel's congregation, and in them the pastor and congregation have utmost confidence.—From Evening Journal of July 27th.

II. Yesterday morning at the First Baptist Church, Dr. George W. McDaniel, the pastor, ran a parallel between the wicked city of Jerusalem, as described in the twenty-second chapter of Ezekiel, and the modern city of Richmond, the subject of "uncleanliness" in this city, he said:

"If the people of this city gave themselves diligently to ferreting out and exposing moral impurity, it would be more creditable than the SENSATIONAL REPORTS which tend to reflect upon an honorable physician and a faithful officer. These men had no more idea of seeking to hide a crime or escape justice than leaving the city than you had of killing that helpless infant, and to insinuate that they did is both unjust and unkind. Let us seek to check and destroy the moral impurity of this city, which degrades manhood, debases womanhood, and brings innocent and helpless children into the world under circumstances worse than death. To purify the stream at its source would show more manly and demand higher character and courage than to COLONIZE AND CIRCULATE REPORTS about the death of an abandoned child—said and shocking as that death is, the practice of impurity, rather than being excited over SENSATIONAL public officials, do about the same thing. It is a practice of insinuating evil or intimating unfaithfulness."

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III. The grand jury convened for this term of the court, having been specifically charged to make inquiry touching the supposed poisoning of a male infant at the City Home, and also to investigate the conditions of said home, desire to report to the honorable court that after the most patient and determined effort to probe the mystery of this case, they have been unable to reach the bottom of the attempt at murder, which finally resulted fatally.

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